

1. In a check valve assembly in association with the ventilation system for the passenger space of a motor vehicle, said assembly comprising an outer housing to which an inner frame is connected with a check valve element formed of flexible sheet material clamped between the outer housing and the inner frame, the improvement wherein the inner frame (4) is received into an open end of the outer housing (3) and the assembled unit comprising the inner frame (4), the outer housing (3), and the check valve (3) is joined to a support (2) of the motor vehicle through a resilient clip connection (6) carried on the outer housing (3).

Reissue application claim 16 reads as follows:

16. A check valve assembly adaptable for use with a ventilation system of a passenger space of a motor vehicle, the assembly comprising:  
an outer housing having an open end;  
an inner frame received in the open end;  
a check valve element formed of flexible sheet material clamped between the outer housing and the inner frame; and,  
a resilient clip connection formed separate from the outer housing and carried on a locking element which is connected with the outer housing, the clip connection securing the outer housing to the locking element and joining the inner frame, the outer housing, and the check valve element to the motor vehicle.

The applicant previously indicated a relationship between original application claim 1 and reissue claim 16, i.e., that claim 16 was being pursued because claim 1 was previously canceled. However, notwithstanding this, claim 16 recites additional limitations not present in claim 1. For example, claim 16 recites that the resilient clip connection is separate from the outer housing and carried on a locking element which is connected with the outer housing. Moreover, the claim states that the clip connection secures the outer housing to the locking

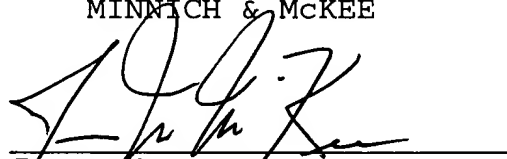
element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that reissue claim 16 does not violate the recapture doctrine and is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further notes that proper surrender of the original patent has not been made. However, a Notice of Surrender of Original Patent was made to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 26, 1998. A copy of that Notice, as well as the postcard received from the U.S.P.T.O., are attached for the convenience of the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, all objections are submitted to be overcome. As such, all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response for U.S. Patent Application No. 08/230,083 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 10, 1998.



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